

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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REPORT INFORMATION:

2002 McCarthy, J.P.

The 2001 Archeological Society of Maryland Field Session Archeological Investigations - Pleasant Valley Farm, Talbot County, Maryland.
Submitted to the Maryland Historical Trust

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Research Firm/Institution:

Applied Archaeology and History Associates, Inc.
615 Fairglen Lane
Annapolis, MD 21401

Sites examined:

18TA355

Project Details:

Phase I

Phase II



Phase III

Project Justification:

This report describes the results of the 2001 Annual Field Session in Maryland Archeology held at the Pleasant Valley Farm (18TA355) near Easton in Talbot County, Maryland. The Annual Field Session is a cooperative venture between the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc. (ASM), and the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT). The purpose of the field session is to train lay persons in archeological methods and to teach Maryland's past through hands-on involvement, while making meaningful contributions to the study of Maryland archeology. Sites are selected for their research potential, endangerment, and for their suitability as a training site.

MAC Accession: 2004.045.001

Project Objectives:

- Determine if the excavation area represents a main plantation house (manor house) as has been assumed.
- Calculate the areal extent of the deposits in the excavation area.
- Determine the number of structures represented, how they are organized in relation to one another, and the stylistic attributes that they reflect.
- Assess the chronology of the complex and determine if any prehistoric component(s) are present.
- Determine who is likely to have lived there.
- Assess the material circumstances (patterns of consumption of manufactured goods, diet, etc.) of the residents and compare them to other sites from this period.
- Ascertain the ways in which the actions/behaviors of servants or slaves can be distinguished from those of the plantation owners/tenants.
- Determine the types of features present below the plowzone and their condition.
- Establish the relationships among the artifacts recovered from various layers of the plowzone and truncated features and determine the impact of plowing and the remaining potential of material remains from the plowzone.
- Determine the eligibility of archeological resources at Pleasant Valley Farm for listing on the NRHP.

Research Potential:

Archeological resources in both areas of 18TA35 examined in 2001 appear to be significant and eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places for their ability to shed light on the colonial settlement of Maryland, including such topics as frontier consumer behavior, the expression and maintenance of social standing, and the world that planters, servants, and slaves made together on the Eastern Shore during the 17th and 18th centuries. Archeological resources at both locations should be protected from unnecessary disturbances and both are worthy of further research effort.